



The Zoo & Lion's Den

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	305389
Inspection date	16 May 2006
Inspector	Janice Shaw
Setting Address	The Tytherington Club, Dorchester Way, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2JP
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Clubhaus PLC
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care, Crèche

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Zoo and Lion's Den offer crèche and holiday play scheme ('Junior Club') facilities for children whose parents are members of 'The Tytherington Club'. The facility is registered for a maximum of 32 children at any one time, and has 495 children on roll. Parents remain on the premises at all times.

The crèche operates for 357 days a year, on Monday and Wednesday, 09.00 - 19.30, Tuesday and Thursday, 09.00 - 17.30, Friday 09.00 - 20.30, Saturday 09.00-17.00 and on Sunday 09.00 - 16.00. Children are allowed to attend a maximum of two hours per day.

There are 22 members of staff who work with the children on a rota basis across the week; 14 of whom hold an appropriate qualification in childcare.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the good relationships, which are developed between staff and parents. A two way sharing of information on a daily basis between staff and parents enhances their care. Children are well protected from infection and cross contamination through good hygiene routines, which are clearly established and consistently followed by all staff. Clear procedures for recording accidents, administering medication and sick children are understood by all staff, and are shared with parents and are effective.

The children are helped to understand that washing their hands at appropriate times and putting hands over their mouths when coughing reduces the spread of infection and keep them healthy. During their time at the crèche, the children are provided with regular drinks to keep them hydrated and to quench their thirst. However, this is not freely available for children to access independently. Children are not provided with food whilst in the crèche, yet parents can use the club facilities to provide children with refreshments at either side of their crèche session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The setting is in the middle of a complete refurbishment. The rooms have recently been painted and provide children with a bright and fresh environment. A new carpet and vinyl flooring is to be installed within days of this inspection which will allow children to play in comfort on the floor and also to increase the area where arts and craft, sand and water can be provided. Children benefit from a good amount of space indoors, which is arranged effectively to provide them with satisfactory levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. They confidently chose from a reasonable range of equipment, which is stored in boxes providing easy access and choice for children. There are no comfortable adult chairs available for staff to hold and comfort babies in. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are extremely vigilant and assess possible risks to reduce potential hazards.

Children are well protected, as the provision has a secure understanding about their role and responsibility with regards to child protection issues. All relevant information and contact details to safeguard the welfare of children are in place. The staff have good systems in place for child protection procedures and are sensitive towards these issues and aware of the need for confidentiality.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the crèche, constantly talking and playing with staff who give very good attention to extending children's social and listening skills. Babies receive lots of cuddles and have a strong bond with the staff which increases their sense of well-being. Children independently make choices, select resources and activities are supported to extend their knowledge and skills in most areas. They are very confident and play imaginatively when they initiate and extend role-play games together. Staff listen carefully to children and get down on their level when, such as pretending to make dinner or a cup of tea in the home area. Children over two readily engage in self-chosen activities. They play harmoniously together with the wooden train track, creating different play situations with their friends. They work co-operatively to mend or re-design areas of the track, showing a sense of satisfaction when it is completed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are met well as they follow their daily routine, as discussed with their parents. The staff work in partnership with parents and professionals to ensure that children's needs are satisfactorily met. Positive relationships are formed that help children feel secure and at home within the setting. Children do not have access to any resources that promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

Higher staffing ratios are provided to help children who have additional needs to successfully benefit from the time in the crèche. All children's individual strengths and weakness are identified and supported well. Children are well behaved and benefit from a calm and consistent approach that is actively promoted by all members of staff. They are encouraged to say 'please' and 'thank you' and to play together harmoniously. Self-esteem and confidence are developed in a positive approach where staff and children offer each other regular praise; they value kind actions and celebrate success. Staff support younger children in sharing, turn taking and to understand how being kind to others prevents children from being hurt.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a reasonably safe, comfortable environment where play space and resources are pleasingly laid out. Children are well supported by appropriate levels of staff who are effectively deployed, suitably qualified and experienced. Staff are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities, which serves to ensure children are suitably cared for in the setting. Children benefit from the good systems of communication in place. This involves staff addressing any areas of concern or

practice issues as they arise.

Space and resources are organised to promote some aspects of children's decision making and their ability to make choices. The required documentation is well organised, up-to-date and stored in confidence. This contributes to the safe and efficient management of the provision. Staff have a sound awareness of the setting's policies and procedures, and effectively put them into practice. Children do not benefit from aspects of the Birth to three framework being included in the crèche practise. Staff knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three framework is very weak and the manager has recognised this as an area for staff development.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were eight recommendations made after the last inspection of the setting; six were related to policies and documentation and these have all been satisfactorily addressed. One recommendation required the setting to increase the range of resources for children that promoted disability. This has not been addressed and is included in the recommendations following this inspection. The setting was also required to provide comfortable temperatures within the playroom. An air conditioning system is to be installed within the week of this inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop staff knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three framework

and reflect it within the crèche practice

- ensure that children can independently access fresh drinking water throughout the session
- provide resources that promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others
- provide suitable adult furniture to enable staff to hold and comfort children under two.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk